



MAKING MAGIC: Designing & Facilitating Impactful Gatherings Online

23 August – 02 September 2021

Online Version

Abstract

“We’re living through an extraordinary moment and have the rare opportunity to actually pause and shape how we spend our collective time.”

Priya Parker

No one could have imagined the way our interconnected world would change in the past year, but looking back now, each of us has a story to tell about how we’ve navigated the past 15 months. About the ways in which we’ve stayed connected, about how we’ve still managed to bring people together and continue our work amidst great anxiety and grief, and about the possibilities we see for the future as a result of the learnings we’ve had.

2020 and 2021 have seen engagements dramatically change shape. It has become so much easier to meet, but paradoxically so much harder too to connect. We are inundated with invitations to online meetings and events, many of which have felt less than optimal. “Zoom” fatigue has reduced the enthusiasm and will to engage, affecting also the results and commitment that gatherings generate. It is harder to stay connected to our colleagues, our friends, our target audiences and stakeholders.

We believe that it is possible to enable and have magical experiences online. We’re talking about the types of events, meetings and workshops that don’t fill us with dread, but the ones where we leave feeling as if we have not just gained knowledge, but also inspiration and relationships. We also believe that this time of working on digital platforms may provide us with wonderful learnings that we can take into the post-Covid world of hybrid or blended engagements.

As the Priya Parker quote above suggests, we believe that we have a unique opportunity to pause at this time, and deliberately draw on the lessons of our recent past, to continue designing and facilitating gatherings that feel meaningful and are impactful. What facilitation values, beliefs or principles should we hold on to, and what should we be open to change? And, what methods, tools and beliefs no longer serve us as we gather in today’s world?

This is a time for change and innovation when it comes to events, workshops and meetings. The unexpected upside of life in a pandemic, is that it provides us with a reason to do things in another way, to find better, or more useful ways of coming together as humans, and to explore different platforms that support rather than detract from these experiences. Join us for a seminar that will uncover the ways in which we can bring people together in ways that inspire and transform.

Components:

This workshop focuses on 3 distinct, yet interwoven, components:

1. Facilitation

- What is facilitation? How do you see its deeper purpose and vision? What are the core beliefs or values that underpin how you see your facilitation practice?
- What makes for a great facilitator, online or in-person? How would you like to be when you are in front of a group?
- What behaviours support a life nurturing environment in a gathering? What are your unique facilitation strengths? How do you prepare yourself - your “whole self” as a facilitator?
- What are the different parts or components of engagements or events?
- On what levels do participants or guests engage or learn? How can you engage the “whole person” in a space - body, mind, spirit and emotions?
- How can you uncover the needs of your stakeholders and participants so that your events are relevant?
- How can you support and inspire readiness of participants’ for your gathering?
- How can you design workshops, events or meetings that have a unique approach, a great learning flow, and where the whole team is aligned?
- How do you consciously grow as a facilitator and see your facilitation journey in the future?

2. Digital Platforms & Hybrid Methods

- What trends and best practice guidelines should you take into account when arranging events online?
- What are the tips and tricks of often-used platforms like Zoom, Menti, Miro, Google Jamboard, Goosechase, Kahoot, and others?
- What are innovative or meaningful experiences that can be built into digital or hybrid events?
- How can you blend or merge digital platforms with in-person meetings?
- How do you innovate in environments with technological constraints?
- What are some conference or event methodologies or formats that we are excited about?
- How can you consider the whole journey of a participant when meeting online?

3. Practical Application

- Throughout the course of the workshop, we will create frequent opportunities for participants to actively try things and apply learnings to current or upcoming actual projects or programmes.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of our workshop, participants will have:

- Deepened their perspective and understanding of facilitation;
- Experienced platforms, methods, techniques being consciously woven together for seamless learning that also inspire and strengthen relationships;
- Practiced various elements of a facilitator's role (preparing self, understanding needs, crafting outcomes and an intentional design, preparing participants, preparing and holding the space, following up and reflection);
- Explored current experiences in designing and hosting digital events, and discussed trends to look out for;
- Reflected on their own way of being and journey as facilitators, and craft intentions for further strengthening their facilitation practice.

Target Group & Requirements:

This workshop is best suited for individuals who are actively engaged in the planning of events, the facilitation of meetings, seminars or workshops, or who are responsible for designing or hosting in-person, digital or hybrid engagements.

Individuals should have an intermediate digital proficiency, meaning they should be able to find their way around online platforms, even though prior knowledge of the platforms we'll use won't be required.

This is an intense, participatory workshop, and so individuals should have an internet connection that can enable a stable video feed, a functioning tablet, desk computer or laptop, and a quiet private space from where to join the workshop.

Format:

This workshop will run from Monday 23 August to Thursday 2 September 2021.

Monday 23 August	Global Day
Tuesday 24 August	Regional Day
Wednesday 25 August	Day for Self-Learning, Learning Partnerships
Thursday 26 August	Regional Day
Friday 27 August	Global Day
Saturday, 28 August	Free
Sunday, 29 August	Free
Monday 30 August	Regional Day
Tuesday 31 August	Global Day
Wednesday 1 September	Regional Day
Thursday 2 September	Global Day

Global days will run from 15h00 - 17h00 UTC+2 and require the full group's presence. During regional days, participants will be asked to choose between two regional timezone slots at 10h00 - 12h30 UTC+2 or 15h00 - 17h30 UTC+2.

The exact calendar will be shared after confirmation of participation.

Facilitators



Marike Groenewald

Marike Groenewald is the founder of Anew, an organisational and leadership development consultancy based in Cape Town, South Africa.

Holding a Masters Degree in Law, Marike has pursued a career as a developer of people and facilitator over many years, and in various organisations. She was until 2015 employed by a political party, South Africa's Official Opposition - the Democratic Alliance - as the Executive Director of Development and Learning. In this role, Marike was responsible for the development and learning needs of almost 700 members of staff and nearly 2000 public representatives.

Marike also served for nearly eight years as the Director of the DA's Young Leaders Programme, the party's flagship year-long leadership development course and the only programme of its kind in the world.

In November 2016, Marike graduated as an Ontological Coach through Australia's Newfield Institute. Marike's professional focus, interest and experience lie in the fields of leadership development, specialist and niche leadership programme design and consulting, organisational change, advanced personal and team development, facilitation and coaching. Marike is an accredited facilitator of the Thinking Environment and is passionate about creating a space where individuals can think at their best, and for themselves with ease, courage and freedom.

In 2015, Marike was selected as one of the Mail and Guardian's 200 young South Africans. She is a fellow of the 2016 Westerwelle Foundation's Young Founders Programme and in 2018 Marike presented a TEDx talk in Germany on courage. Marike works with leaders, start-ups, political parties, think tanks, NGOs, and companies around the world and regularly facilitates seminars at the International Academy for Leadership in Germany.



Manali Shah

Mana enjoys holding spaces for individuals and groups for conversations that matter. Her love for facilitation accidentally began at one of FNF's partners in India twenty years ago. Since then her practice has been impacted by a range of facilitation approaches from across the world, specifically the Genuine Contact Program™. As an independent facilitator, she works with various local and international organisations on designing and facilitating learning journeys, reflective spaces, consultations, visioning and strategy processes. She managed projects at the FNF South Asia office for four years and is a moderator at the International Academy of Leadership in Gummersbach. In the past few years she has designed and facilitated trainings for partners of the Atlas Network in Asia and Africa.

She loves to spread the joy of facilitation and envisions a world with more and more facilitators - in 2014 she initiated a peer learning community that has grown to 50+ budding and experienced facilitators across India. The past year continued to offer her opportunities to hold spaces online including short check in circles just post lockdown for over 120 individuals, learning journeys on facilitation and leadership, visioning for a newly formed volunteer group, well-being workshops for over 100 team members of an Indian foundation, and a virtual global team retreat.



Clinton du Preez

Clinton discovered his passion for developing teams and individuals at the Democratic Alliance (DA), South Africa's Official Opposition. Working in the Party's Development and Learning Department for a couple of years, Clinton designed and implemented development opportunities for public representatives (from local Councillors to Members of Parliament) to staff members of the Party (ranging from Call Centre Agents to Senior Executive Directors). In 2018 he was appointed the Deputy National Campaign Manager: Training for the Party's 2019 general election campaign. In this role, he was responsible for driving the systematic recruitment and training of over 50 000 party volunteers across the country, and training the Party's top political leaders in debates and media interviews.

Clinton is currently based in Cape Town as an associate at Anew, an organisational and people development consultancy. He works with NGOs, political parties, government institutions and companies across the world, focusing on strategy, capacity building, team development and strengthening structures. He also regularly facilitates seminars at the International Academy for Leadership in Gummersbach, Germany.

The Foundation

We, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, promote individual liberty, free and open societies and free markets in Germany and throughout the world. To us freedom is the guiding principle in policy making. We believe that free and open societies are the only societies that allow human beings to decide for themselves what is best, to develop their full potential and to pursue their dreams. This is what we mean when we claim to value human dignity. And it is freedom that produces prosperity. Together with our counterparts – who all share a similar set of values – we support initiatives in Germany and abroad that serve to enhance respect for the rule of law, private property and human rights, that foster tolerance and that strengthen economic freedom rights and democracy.



The programmes of the Foundation's International Academy for Leadership (IAF) form an integral part of our international work and offer Liberals from all parts of the world opportunities to engage in dialogue, an exchange of ideas, networking and mutual cooperation. We aim to inspire.

Venue: Online

Language: English

Registration: 23 July 2021

Registration fee: 0,00 €



www.visit.fnst.org



[FNF.IAF](https://www.facebook.com/FNF.IAF)



[iaf_gummersbach](https://twitter.com/iaf_gummersbach)



[iaf_gummersbach](https://www.instagram.com/iaf_gummersbach)